there is any information with the Police, we have to collect it. But I would like to assure the hon. Member that the Government will not be failing in its resolve to see that action against spurious cylinder manufacturers, distributors and transporters, who are indulging in this malpractice, will be taken and they will be punished.

कुमारी सईदा खातून : माननीय सभापति महोदय, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहती हूं कि जितनी गैस एजेंसीज निलम्बित की गई हैं उनको बहाल करने के लिए क्या कोई टाइम लिमिट भी रखी गई है ? उसके बदले में दूसरों को गैस एजेंसी दी जाती है, लेकिन दूसरे लोगों के पास गैस सिलिन्डर लेने का कोई प्रावधान नहीं है। केवल एम० पीज० के कोटे से गैस सिलिन्डर इस्यू कर सकते हैं ? बालाघाट का एक बड़ा प्रोबलम है। इस बारे में हम कई बार मंत्री जी से मिले। वहां पर एक मात्र यही गैस एजेन्सी थी और वह भी निलम्बित पड़ी हुई है। उसको बहाल करने के कई प्रकरण हम लोगों ने दिये। जनता रिजीम वाले एम० पी० ने इसको निलंबित करवाया था। तब से वह गैस एजेंसी निलंबित पड़ी हुई है। उस पर कोई खास ब्लेम नहीं था... (**व्यवधान**)।

श्री सभापति : वह तो अलग से स्पेशल केस है।

कुमारी सईदा खातून : मध्य प्रदेश में ऐसी कितनी ही गैस एजेंसीज निलम्बित पड़ी हुई हैं। उनके लिए कोई टाइम लिमिट रखी गई है या नहीं ? कितने टाइम के भीतर उन गैस एजेंसीज को बहाल किया जाएगा ?

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : Sir, when gas agencies and other distributorships are terminated on the basis of punitive action by the oil companies, the oil companies themselves have the power to make temporary arrangements till fresh distributorship is decided on at the appropriate level. So, this is done by the oil companies to ensure that the consumers in that area do not suffer. The allocation of new agencies and distributorships in the oil sector are done as per the marketing development plans submitted by the oil companies and approved by the Government. There is a due procedure through the Oil Selection Boards. The Oil Selection Boards are under constitution. Government are aware of the areas to be opened up, and a decision on this will be taken quickly.

डा० बापू कालदाते : बालाघाट के प्रोबलम का क्या हुआ ?

When she is strongly recommending that, she knows about the inconvenience of the people.

MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE : Sir, would be Minister enlighten the House as to what is the estimated indigenous production of LPG in the year 1992-93, what is the total number of connections up to date, what is the waiting list and by when the waiting list is going to be eliminated ?

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : Sir, the estimated production of liquified petroleum gas for 1992-93 is 2,228 thousand metric tons. The number of LPG connections existing in the country at the moment are 18 million approximately. The number in the waiting list is 8.5 million. As per an intensive drive for increased production of LPG from the refineries and fractionators as well as increased imports launched at the instance of my senior colleague, we are attempting to eliminate the existing backlog of connections on the waiting list by 1994 by increased production and allocation.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question No. 124.

Eradication of Mosquito-Borne Diseases

*124. SHRI M. VINCENT : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to introduce a crash programme for eradication of Mosquito-borne diseases like Malaria, Filaria and Encaphalitis ; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to link such programmes to the Jawahar Rozgar Yojna and such other rural welfare schemes so that employment potential for the unemployed rural women and youth may be created ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) No such crash programme is feasible.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI M. VINCENT : Sir, the Minister's reply is insufficient and evasive. Sir, in the context of the anxiety of the World Health Organisation that Malaria is reappearing in the entire world with increased incidence, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what are the details of the assistance received from the WHO or the donor countries for the purpose of malaria control and how they are utilised. Sir, part (b) of my question is that in 1991-92, Rs. 89 crores were allocated for the scheme to control mosquito-borne diseases. The results were encouraging but this year only Rs. 65 crores hove been allocated for eraidication of mosquito-borne diseases. What is the reason for this reduction in allocation ? Are you going to discontinue certain measures and if so, what are they, and why ?

SHRI ARJUN SINGH : Sir, the fact that malaria has not been totally eradicated cannot be denied. But the incidence is definitely coming down and the programmes that have been undertaken are on the basis of our experience in this matter, through a Centrally-sponsored scheme in which the States are also the participants. So far as the details of the expenditure from the funds from the W.H.O. are concerned, I can give separately a detailed account of expenditure from that fund, to the hon. Member.

SHRI M. VINCENT : Is it a fact that distribution of free drugs for filaria and malaria treatment is being done only in the urban areas ? I want to know why rural areas are not given equal importance. In the case of controlling Japanese encephalitis, measures are being initiated in rural areas. I want to know whether the Government is aware that there is country pig-rearing in the cities and towns on the garbage in the slums and jhuggis. Will the Government extend similar importance to urban areas also in this regard ?

SHRI ARJUN SINGH : This programme covers both urban and rural areas and the emphasis is on the methods that are to be taken. Naturally they will differ from area to area, though there will be some commonalities also. I can assure the hon. Member that there is no distinction between urban and rural areas on the question of eradication of these diseases. If there is any specific instance which needs to be looked into, that can certainly be done. And I am sure the intention of the Government and its efforts is to see that these diseases are controlled.

SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN : I am reluctant to accept the Minister's claim that mosquitos are on the decrease. From my personal experience I find that mosquitos are multiplying. Not only they are multiplying, but some fat mosquitos have surfaced and people call them airbus mosquitos. In Delhi where I live, the mosquitos are making my life miserable. A couple of days back, the NDMC people came and spread some pesticides including DDT. In spite of that, mosquitos are growing. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government has done any research to find out whether the mosquitos are becoming immune to DDT and other pesticides and if so, what are the results of that research.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH : I would like to make it clear that I never used the word 'mosquitos'. I said the incidence of malaria is on the decline .... (*Interruptions*) .... That is precisely the point. And I am sure the hon. Members know that all mosquitos do not carry malaria, and that is a clinical fact. The question of controlling mosquitos is also important and for that, steps are being taken.

The hon. Member asked whether they are becoming immune or whether some more steps are needed or different pesticides are needed. Sir, it is a continuous process that is going on. I would only like to say that the incidence of malaria has shown a slight decline in this year.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Will you see that Jumbo-mosquitos do not invade the residences of the Members of Parliament ?

SHRI ARJUN SINGH : I will bring this to the notice of my colleague, Shri Fotedarji and I assure you that he will see to it that neither the Jumbo nor the 737-mosquitoes invade anyone.

श्री राघव जी : सभापति जी, एक समय ऐसा था जब सरकार की ओर से यह प्रचार किया जाता था कि मलेरिया का रोगी बताओ और एक हजार रुपया इनाम पाओ । क्या वह स्थिति अब समाप्त हो गई है और अब मलेरिया फिर से फैलने लगा है ? यह दावा क्या सरकार का खत्म हो गया कि अब मलेरिया इस देश के अंदर नही है और अगर मलेरिया है तो मच्छरों को मारने के लिये, जिनसे मलेरिया उत्पन्न होता है, उसके लिये कौन कौन से उपाय शासन द्वारा देहाती और शहरी क्षेत्रों में किये जा रहे है ? जहां तक मेरी जानकारी है न तो शहरी क्षेत्रों में और न ही देहाती क्षेत्रों में मच्छरों को समाप्त करने के लिये कोई उपाय किये जा रहे हैं ।

श्री अजीत जोगी : भाजपा शासित प्रदेशों में ज्यादा हैं मच्छर (**व्यवधान**)

श्री अर्जुन सिंह : आदरणीय सभापति महोदय, (**व्यवधान**)

श्री माननीय सदस्य : आपके आने के बाद बढ़े हैं (**व्यवधान**)

श्री अर्जुन सिंह : आदरणीय सभापति महोदय, यह इस समूचे पहलू का एक सुखद अंग है कि मच्छर कोई पार्टी या धर्म को नहीं पहचानता है । वह सब को बराबर काटता है । इसलिये ऐसी आशंका किसी को नहीं होनी चाहिये (**व्यवधान**)

श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह : सभापति महोदय, हम लोग इस बात को स्वीकार कर लें कि अर्जुन के गांडीव के सामने मच्छर भी भाग गये (**व्यवधान**)

श्री अर्जुन सिंह : यह तो हमारे आदरणीय मित्र का अपना व्यक्त करने का तरीका है लेकिन मच्छरों के लिए गांडीव की जरूरत भी नहीं है । आदरणीय सभापति महोदय, यह प्रश्न निश्चित रूप से बार बार हम सब के सामने आता है कि नागरिक की हैसियत से मलेरिया के खिलाफ जो अभियान चला था और जिस अभियान को काफी हद तक सफलता मिली थी, क्या वह अभियान बंद हो गया है और जो अब मच्छर बढ़ रहे हैं या आज मलेरिया का इंसीडेंस एक प्लेटयु पर आ गया है, क्या अब इसके खिलाफ कुछ नहीं किया जा सकता है। यह आशय है हमारे माननीय सदस्य के प्रश्न का । मैं यह कहना चाहूंगा कि यह सही है कि केवल भारत में ही नहीं बल्कि समूचे विश्व में मलेरिया के खिलाफ जो प्रमुख देश थे उस अभियान में एक स्थिरता आ गई है क्योंकि अब उसके आगे कोई नये उपाय भी नहीं आ रहे है जिससे कि पूर्ण रूप से इस बीमारी को खत्म किया जा सके जैसे कि स्माल पाक्स में हुआ है या कई अन्य डिसीजेज में हुआ है । जब तक कोई नया अविष्कार इस दिशा में नहीं होता तब तक we will have to live with it. लेकिन जहां तक मच्छरों के खिलाफ कार्यवाही करने का प्रश्न है उसमें कोई कमी नहीं है । अलग अलग तरीकों से कोशिश की जा रही है ।

श्री राघवजी : मैंने यह पूछा था कि कौन से तरीके उपयोग में लाए जा रहे हैं ? क्या दवाइंयां छिड़क रहे हैं ?

श्री अर्जुन सिंह : दवाइंयां छिड़की जा रही हैं। जहां पानी इकट्ठा हो रहा है, उसको रोका जा

रहा है, बस जा रहा है और गंदगी को साफ किया जा रहा है। यही सामान्य तरीका है।

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN : Sir, it is not that only the citizens are affected by this. Even tourists are very badly affected. I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister one instance. Two-three days ago, some of my relations and my grand children went to the Red Fort to see the Sound and Light Show. When they came back, I asked my grand-daughter about her view of the Sound and Light Show. She said that it was not only a sound and light show, but it was also a sound and light mosquito show. She is six years old. If this is the case, how can we attract tourists ? Therefore, will the hon. Minister see to it that such places, where foreign tourists and other tourists come, such important places, at least, are free of mosquitoes ?

SHRI ARJUN SINGH : Sir, I quite agree that mosquitoes cannot be a tourist attraction. Therefore, we should take all measures to see that tourists places are kept as clean as possible, so that this discomfort is not there.

DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY : Sir, filariasis or elephantasis are rampant in the South, particularly, in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. There are some areas in Tirupati and its surrounding villages.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : Tirupati ? NTR is there.

DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY : The National Filaria Control Programme was launched in 1955.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please put your question.

DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY : The allocation is very meagre. Every year, just Rs. one or two crores is the allocation. Therefore, the State Governments are not able to control it. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government will increase the allocation for the National Filaria Control Programme.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH : Sir, if there is any such area which is highly susceptible to filaria, I am sure, all efforts will be made ; even augmenting the funds, if necessary.

*125. [*The questioner (Mohd. Khaleelur Rahman) was absent. For answer,* vide *Cols.* 31-32 infra.].

*126. [*The questioner (Shri Harvendra Singh Hanspal) was absent. For answer,* vide *cols.* 32—34 infra.]

Supply of Crude and Petroleum Products by Russia

*127. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 326 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 26th February, 1992 and state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Russia has failed to supply any crude and petroleum products to India despite the Indo-Russian Protocol ;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor ;

(c) the quantity and value of crude and petroleum products which India was forced to purchase from the spot market in hard currency as a result of the failure of the Russian Government to supply the same under the prevailing rupet payment protocol ;

(d) by when the supplies are likely to begin from Russia ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) to (d) The Protocol signed on 22nd February, 1992 between the Government of India and the Government of